

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10, 16, 17, and 20-23 are pending in the application, the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-5, 16, 17, and 20-23 are allowed.

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,475,537 to Kobayashi et al. ("Kobayashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,360 to Choi ("Choi").

Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitation that the image sensing device be on the image side of the imaging lens system. This limitation is supported by lines 10-14 of paragraph [0009] on page 4 of the present Application and Fig. 11. This change therefore does not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Choi, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Kobayashi discloses a lens system for reading data from an optical disk. As such, placement of an image sensing device on the image side of the imaging lens system would block the optical disk, thus making it impossible to read data from the optical disk. This is clear from FIG. 1 of Kobayashi in that the image sensing device would be located between the objective lens 2 and the optical information medium 1, thereby rendering Kobayashi's device useless. Thus, Kobayashi clearly does not render obvious the order of elements as required by claim 6. The same problem occurs with Choi as Choi similarly discloses an optical pickup device for reading information from an optical disk. Placement of the image sensing device on the image side of the objective lens 170 illustrated in FIG. 2 of Choi would render Choi's device useless. Therefore, the combination of Kobayashi and

Application No. 09/878,475
Amendment dated November 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2003

Choi, by not disclosing or suggesting the order of elements as required by claim 6, cannot render obvious the imaging lens device of claim 6.

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6. As claim 6 is considered nonobvious over the combination of Kobayashi and Choi, claims 7-9 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6. Similarly, claim 10 depends from nonobvious claim 6 and is considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Choi, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

Application No. 09/878,475
Amendment dated November 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2003

and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
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Respectfully submitted,

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